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July 1, 2005

2005-203-C

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Mr. Charles L. A. Terreni
Chief Clerk/Administrator
South Carolina Public Service Commission
Synergy Business Park, The Saluda Building
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

**Re: Rock Hill Telephone Company, Lancaster Telephone Company, and
Fort Mill Telephone Company all d/b/a/ Comporium Communications
Alternative Regulation Plan**

Dear Mr. Terreni:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of Rock Hill Telephone Company, Lancaster Telephone Company, and Fort Mill Telephone Company all d/b/a Comporium Communications, please find an original and ten (10) copies of an Alternative Regulation Plan. Accompanying the Plan are an original and ten (10) copies each of the Affidavit of Matthew L. Dosch and Robert Thomas Joslin.

Please clock in a copy and return it with our courier.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


M. John Bowen, Jr.

MJB/rwm
Enclosures

cc: C. Dukes Scott, Esquire
Matthew L. Dosch

**ROCK HILL TELEPHONE COMPANY,
LANCASTER TELEPHONE COMPANY,
AND FORT MILL TELEPHONE COMPANY,
ALL D/B/A COMPORIUM COMMUNICATIONS
ALTERNATIVE REGULATION PLAN
PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE ANN. § 58-9-576**

Filed July 1, 2005
Effective August 1, 2005

2005 JUL 1 11:10 AM
SOUTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

1. Introduction

Rock Hill Telephone Company d/b/a Comporium Communications (“Rock Hill”), Lancaster Telephone Company d/b/a Comporium Communications (“Lancaster”), and Fort Mill Telephone Company d/b/a Comporium Communications (“Fort Mill”) (collectively referred to herein as the “Comporium Companies”) are local exchange carriers operating in the State of South Carolina. Because they are under common ownership and management, the Comporium Companies are jointly submitting this Alternative Regulation Plan.

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(A), any local exchange carrier (“LEC”) may elect to have the rates, terms, and conditions of its services determined pursuant to the alternative regulation plan described in S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(B), provided the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) (1) has approved a local interconnection agreement in which the LEC is a participant with an entity determined by the Commission not to be affiliated with the LEC, (2) determines that another provider’s service competes with the LEC’s basic local exchange telephone service, or (3) determines that at least two wireless providers have coverage generally available in the LEC’s service area and that the providers are not affiliates of the LEC. There are at least two wireless providers with coverage generally available in the service areas of Rock Hill, Lancaster, and Fort Mill that are not affiliated with any of the companies, as specified herein. Rock Hill, Lancaster, and Fort Mill hereby elect to have the rates, terms, and conditions of their services determined pursuant to the alternative regulation plan described herein (the “Plan”), which conforms with the plan described in S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(B).

As of July 1, 2005, the date of notice of election of the Plan, there is wireless coverage generally available in Rock Hill’s, Lancaster’s, and Fort Mill’s service areas from the following wireless carriers, none of which is affiliated with any of the Comporium Companies:

ALLTEL Communications, Inc. (“ALLTEL”)
Cricket Communications, Inc. (“Cricket”)
Nextel South Corp. (“Nextel”)
Sprint Spectrum, LP, d/b/a Sprint PCS (“Sprint PCS”)
Triton PCS Operating Co., LLC, d/b/a SunCom (“SunCom”)

Cellco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Verizon”)

In addition, each of the Comporium Companies has a Resale Agreement with CAT Communications, Inc.

The Plan described herein is in lieu of other forms of regulation including, but not limited to, rate of return or rate base monitoring or regulation.

2. Effective Date

The effective date of the Plan is August 1, 2005, which is not sooner than thirty days after filing with the Commission notice of election of the Plan. The Plan will apply to all local services offered by Rock Hill, Lancaster, and Fort Mill that are regulated by the Commission.

3. The Plan

- a. As of July 1, 2005, the date of notice of election of the Plan, existing rates, terms, and conditions for the services provided by Rock Hill, Lancaster, and Fort Mill contained in the companies’ then-existing tariffs and contracts are considered just and reasonable.
- b. Rock Hill, Lancaster, and Fort Mill are “small LECs” for purposes of S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(B)(3). S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-10(14) defines “small LEC” to mean a “rural telephone company” as defined in the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.
- c. Rock Hill’s, Lancaster’s, and Fort Mill’s flat-rated local exchange services for residential and single-line business customers are priced below the statewide average local service rates for those services, weighted by number of access lines, as shown in Rock Hill’s, Lancaster’s, and Fort Mill’s local service tariffs on file with the Commission. Therefore, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(B)(3), the requirements of S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(B)(3) and (4) shall be waived by the Commission until such time as the respective companies’ residential and single-line business rates are priced at the statewide average local service rates for those services. At such time as Rock Hill’s, Lancaster’s, and Fort Mill’s residential and single-line business rates, or either of those rates, equals the statewide average local service rate for that service or those services, the rate for the service that is priced at the statewide average rate shall be subject to the provisions of S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(B)(3) and (4); i.e., that rate shall be frozen for a period of two years from the date at which it is set at the statewide average rate and, after the expiration of the two-year period, may be adjusted on an annual basis pursuant to an inflation-based index.
- d. Rock Hill, Lancaster, and Fort Mill may increase rates for flat-rated local exchange services for residential and single-line business customers if they are below the statewide average rates, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(B)(3).

- e. Rock Hill, Lancaster, and Fort Mill will set rates for all other services on a basis that does not unreasonably discriminate between similarly situated customers. All such rates are subject to a complaint process for abuse of market position in accordance with Commission rules and procedures.
- f. Except when exempted by law, Rock Hill, Lancaster, and Fort Mill will file tariffs for price changes or new services with respect to their local exchange services (including residential and single-line business services) that set out the terms and conditions of the services and the rates for such services. Tariffs will be presumed valid and become effective seven days after filing for price decreases and fourteen days after filing for price increases and new services.
- g. As provided for in S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(B), the Plan applies in lieu of rate of return or rate base regulation. Thus, the procedures set forth above for changes in rates are to be used in lieu of traditional rate-of-return procedures for determining rates, terms, and conditions for service, as found in S.C. Code Ann. §§ 58-9-510 through –570 and in 26 Code Ann. Regs. 103-834(A)(3).

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF YORK)

AFFIDAVIT OF MATTHEW L. DOSCH

Personally appeared before me, Matthew L. Dosch, who, first being duly sworn, did
depose and say:

1. I am Vice President of External Affairs for Rock Hill Telephone Company, Fort Mill Telephone Company, and Lancaster Telephone Company, all doing business as Comporium Communications (Comporium).

2. There are a number of wireless providers that have coverage generally available in the Comporium service area. Attached to this Affidavit as EXHIBIT A, and incorporated herein by reference, are coverage maps showing general coverage of the areas served by Comporium for the following wireless service providers: ALLTEL, Nextel, Sprint PCS, SunCom, and Verizon. These maps were obtained from the respective carriers. None of these wireless service providers is affiliated with any Comporium company, including Rock Hill Telephone Company, Fort Mill Telephone Company, or Lancaster Telephone Company.

3. Robert Joslin, president and a founding partner of EnVision Wireless, Inc., conducted a drive test of the commercial wireless service offered by ALLTEL and Verizon in the Comporium service area. The results of the drive test are detailed in Mr. Joslin's affidavit. In addition to the drive test, an analysis of the percentage of population covered by wireless networks within Lancaster Telephone Company's service area was prepared at my direction. Based upon 2000 Census data, 94.7% of the population within

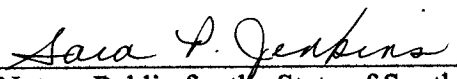
Lancaster Telephone Company's service territory is covered by landline quality wireless service provided by both Verizon and ALLTEL.

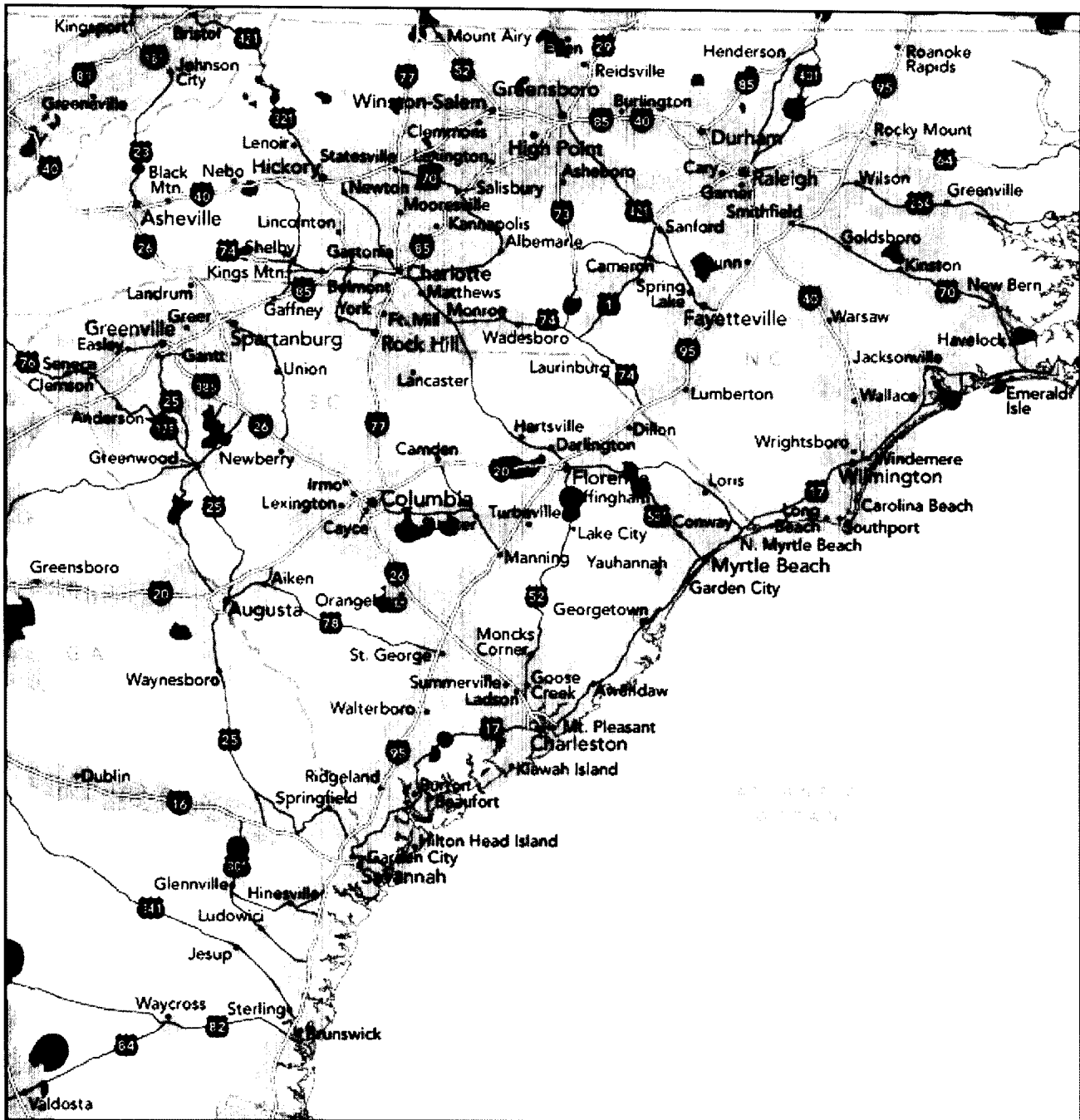
4. Both ALLTEL and Verizon have generally available coverage and a good quality of service throughout the Comporium service area.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAITH NOT.


Matthew L. Dosch

Sworn to before me this
30th day of June, 2005


Notary Public for the State of South Carolina
My Commission Expires 8/20/13



Find Local Sales Locations in Charlotte/Hickory Area
 View Rate Plans in Charlotte/Hickory Area
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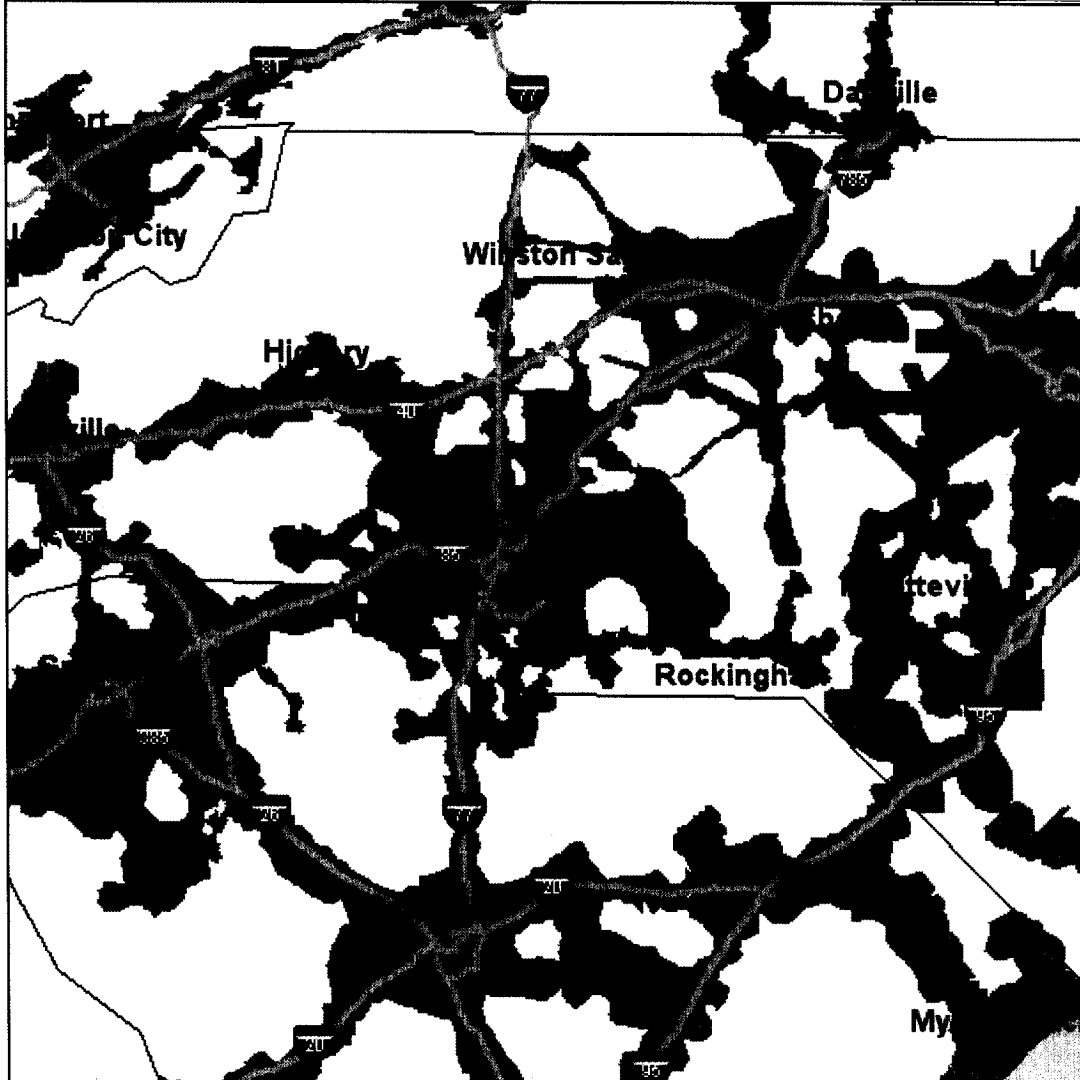


Coverage Information

This map shows coverage in the **Rock Hill, NC (29732)** area.

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- ☒ ☒ [Sprint Nationwide PCS Network](#)
- ☒ ☐ [Additional Sprint PCS Service](#)
- ☒ ☐ [Digital Roaming](#)
- ☒ ☐ + ☐ [Analog Roaming](#)
- ☒ ☐ [No Service Available](#)

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Find Coverage for another location

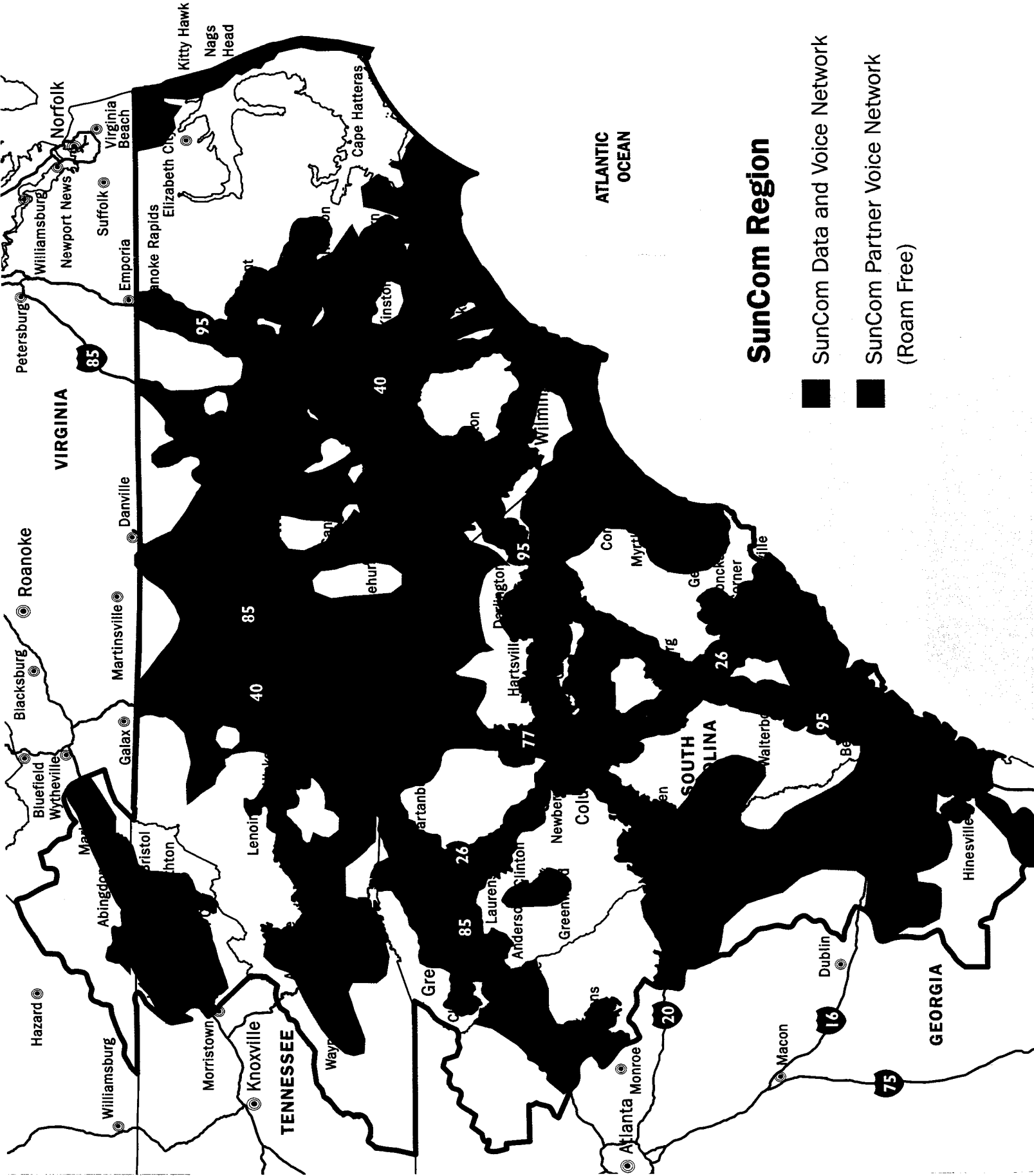
Enter zip code:

[View coverage](#)



Or, select a state:

South Carolina

[Go](#)



SunCom Region

-  SunCom Data and Voice Network
-  SunCom Partner Voice Network (Roam Free)

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF BREVARD

)
)
)

AFFIDAVIT OF ROBERT THOMAS JOSLIN

Personally appeared before me, Robert Joslin, who, first being duly sworn, did depose
and say:

1. I am president and a founding partner of EnVision Wireless, Inc., an RF engineering company that specializes in network design, network optimization and drive testing of today's wireless communication networks. I have ten years of experience in wireless optimization and design as well as management of RF engineering services companies. Prior to EnVision, I served as Director of North American Operations for the Wireless Network Services Division of Agilent Technologies. Agilent acquired my former employer, SAFCO Technologies, in 2000. Shortly after the purchase, I managed the opening of Agilent's western regional network services office. During my three-year employment with SAFCO, I held several management positions. My last role at SAFCO was as manager of its competitive network benchmarking business. In 1995, I joined TEC Cellular, Inc. (TECC) where I worked on many wireless design and optimization projects. I was instrumental in securing and delivering the largest project in the company's history. In 1997, I joined the management team at TECC. As a manager of engineering services, my responsibilities included sales development, staffing and delivery of projects. I graduated from the University of Central Florida in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. Following graduation, I began my wireless career with Nextel Communications in the role of Associate RF Engineer.

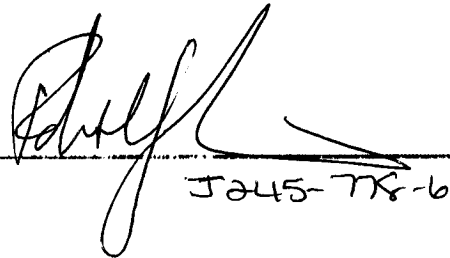
2. There are a number of wireless providers that have coverage generally available in the Comporium Communications (Comporium) service area. I personally conducted a drive test of the commercial wireless service offered by ALLTEL and Verizon in the Comporium service area. The drive test was conducted between June 7, 2005 and June 12, 2005 and covered approximately 1600 miles throughout the service areas of Rock Hill Telephone Company, Fort Mill Telephone Company, and Lancaster Telephone Company. The drive test was conducted for ALLTEL and Verizon using Kyocera 2135 wireless telephones. Each test phone was connected to an Agilent VoicePrint data collection system. The data post processing was performed with Agilent's OPAS32 software, which is specifically designed for post processing drive test data collected with Agilent's drive test systems. The drive test equipment collects data on signal strength and frame error rates, among other data.

3. The results of the system drive tests for ALLTEL and Verizon are shown on the maps attached hereto as EXHIBIT A and incorporated herein by reference. The black line depicted on each map represents the service area of the relevant incumbent local exchange company. Each map included in EXHIBIT A shows Frame Error Rate data for the wireless carrier tested. Frame Error Rate is the wireless industry standard for testing quality of service. A Frame Error Rate range of 0-2 indicates that between 0 and 2% of frames are missed during a call, which is comparable to the quality of a landline call. At a Frame Error Rate of 2-5, some syllables may be missed. At a Frame Error rate of 5-10, some words may be missed. At a Frame Error Rate in the range of 10-100, calls may be dropped. The actual number of dropped calls during the drive test varied by service provider (27 dropped calls out of 839 calls on ALLTEL's network and 22 out of 860 calls

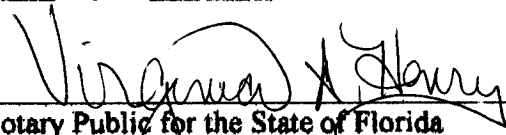
on Verizon's network). As can be seen from the drive test maps, the ALLTEL and Verizon wireless networks have landline-quality service throughout the majority of the Comporium service area.

4. The system drive test results demonstrate that ALLTEL and Verizon have generally available coverage and a good quality of service throughout the Comporium service area.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAITH NOT.


J245-TK-68-3a-2

Sworn to before me this
30 day of June, 2005


Notary Public for the State of Florida
My Commission Expires 7-16-08

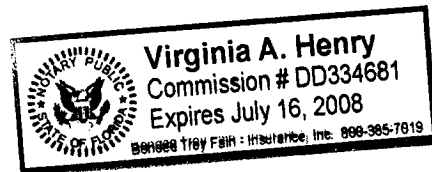
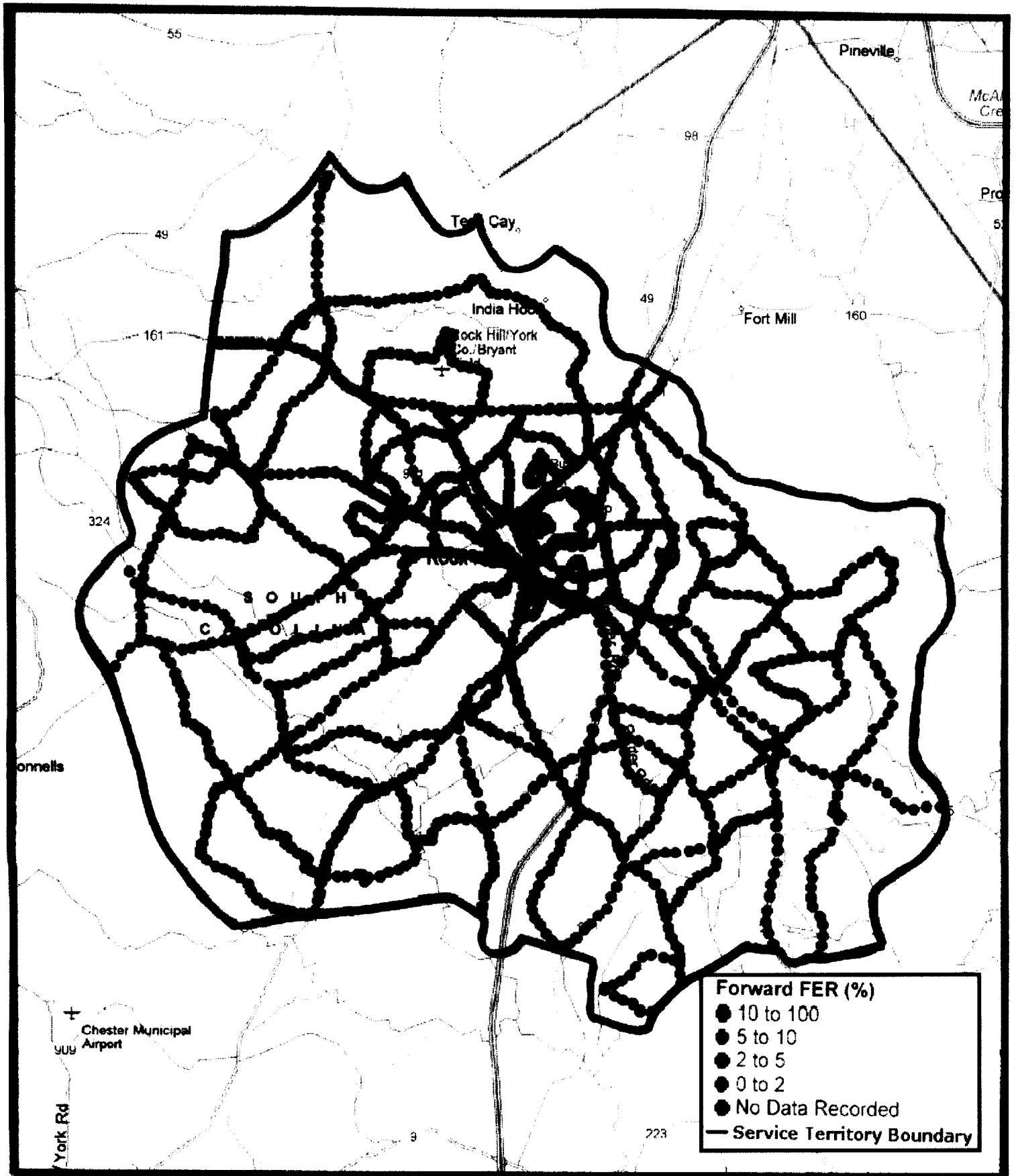
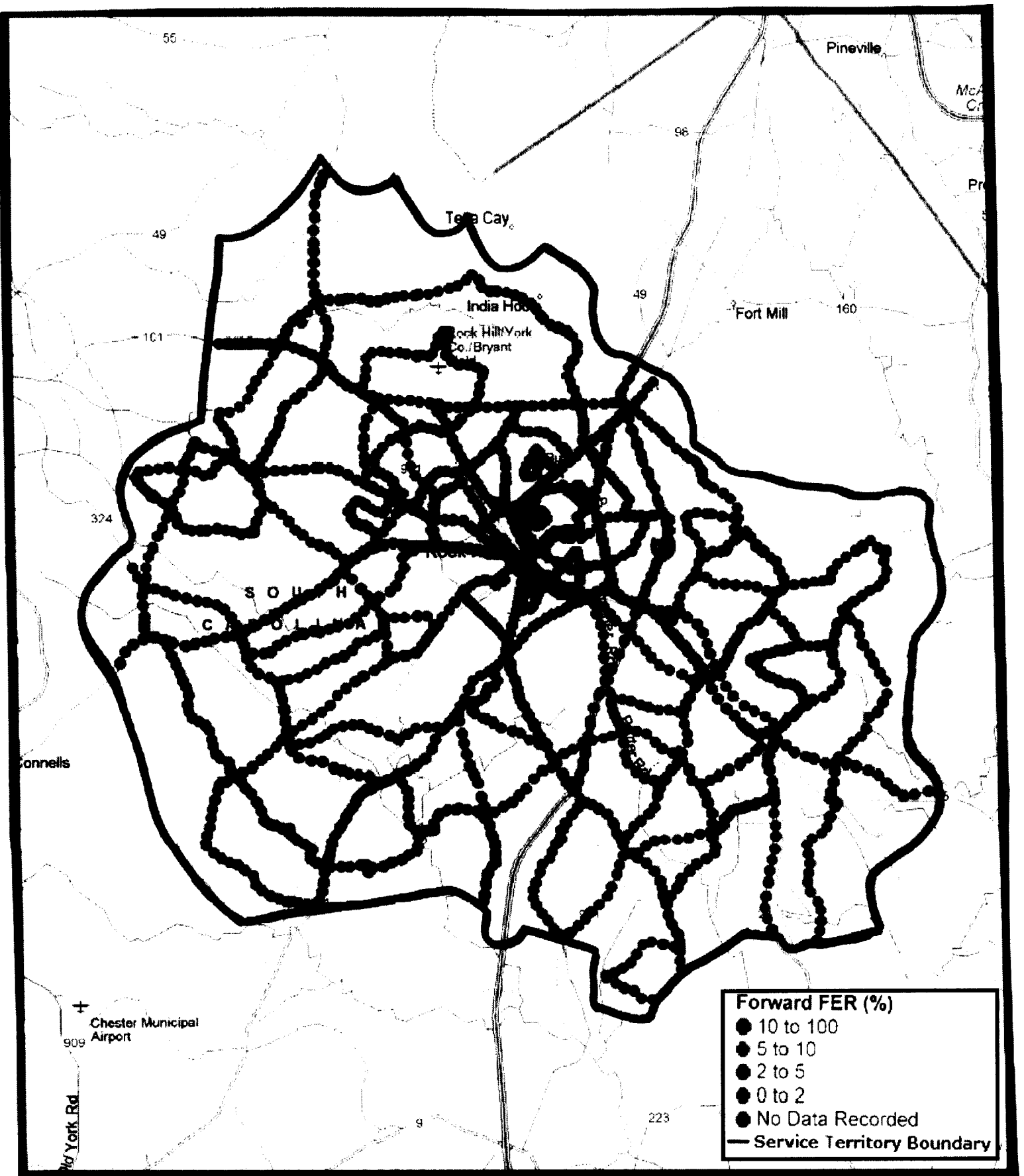


EXHIBIT A

Rock Hill- Alltel CDMA Forward FER (%)

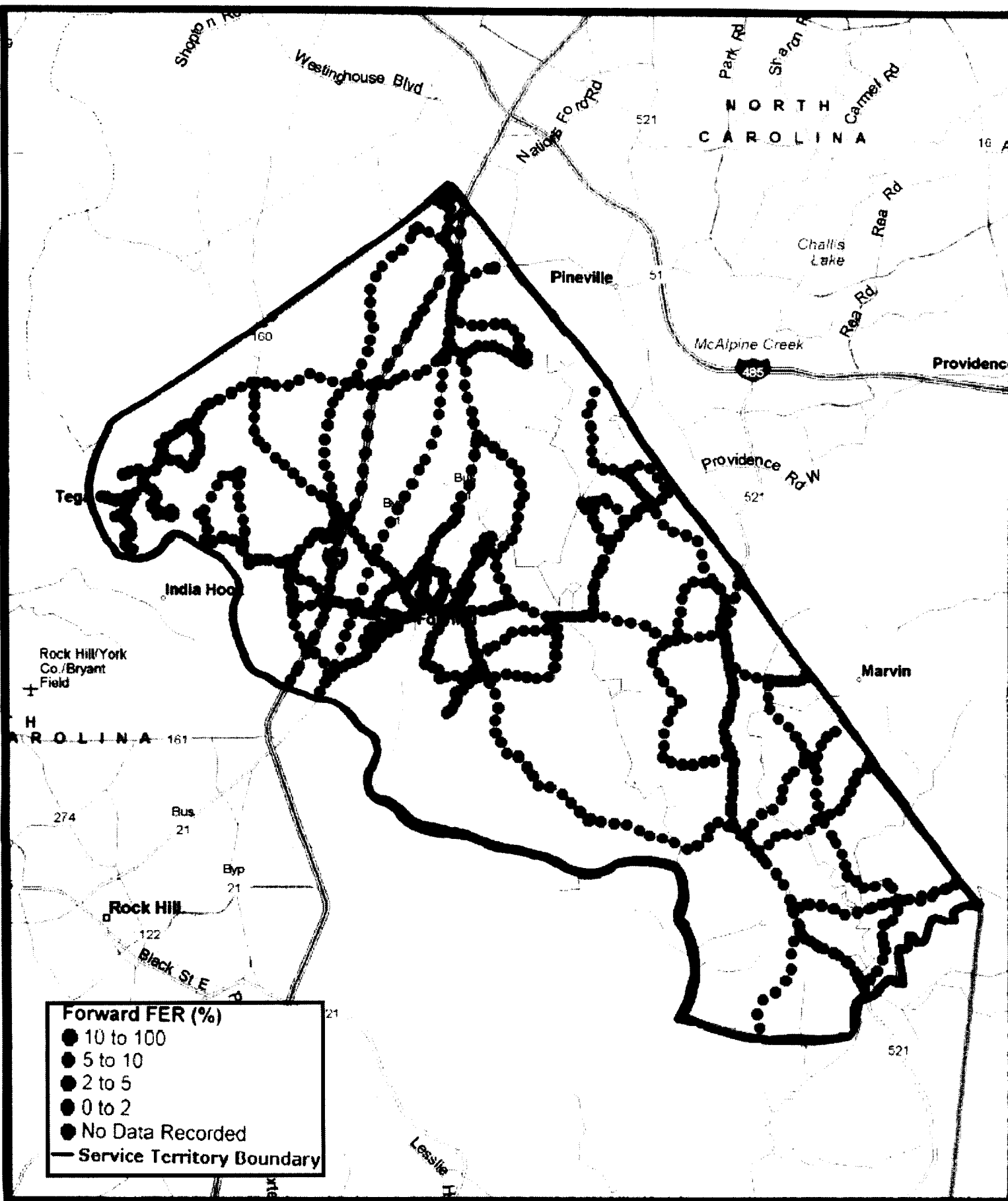


Rock Hill- Verizon CDMA Forward FER (%)

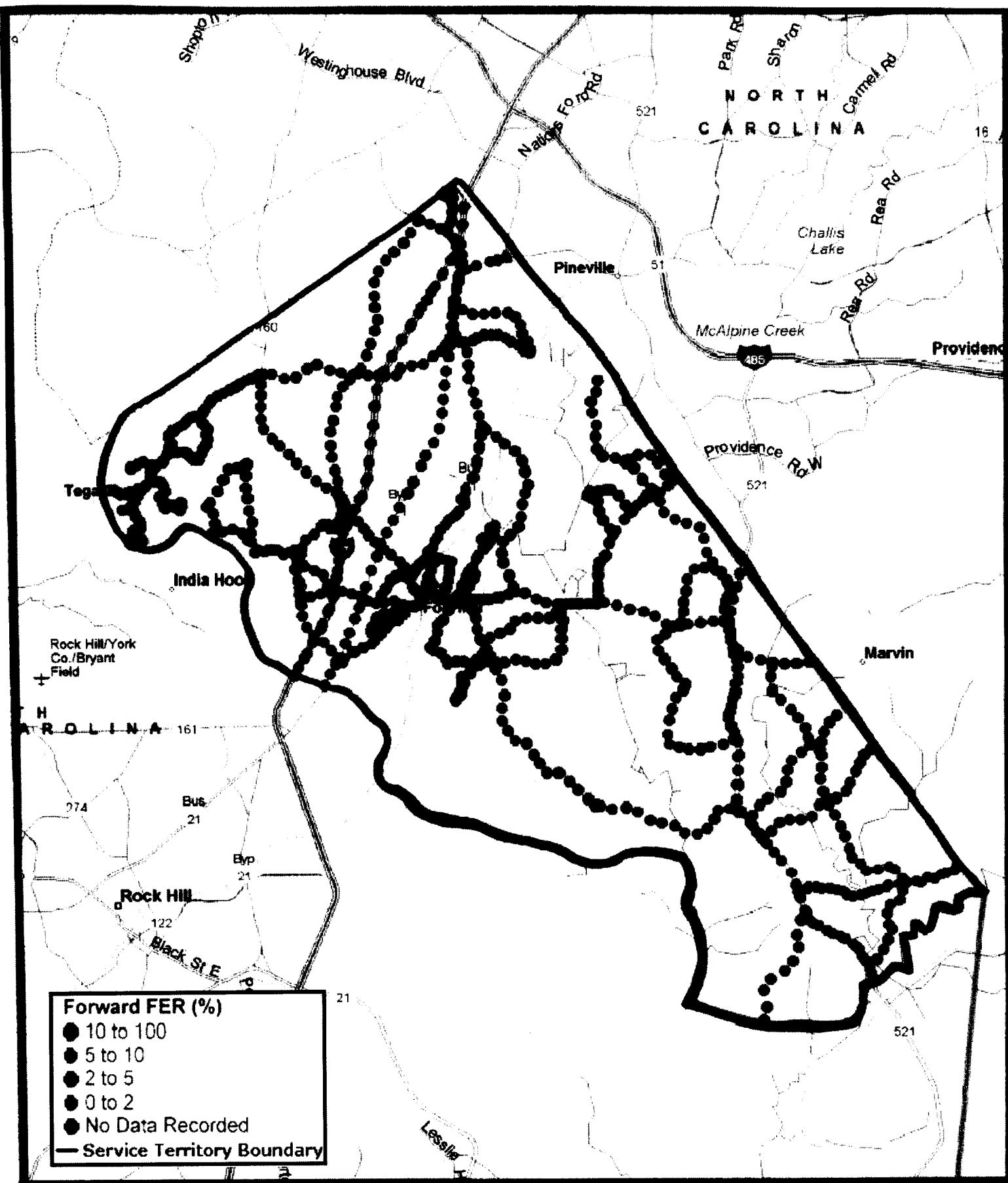


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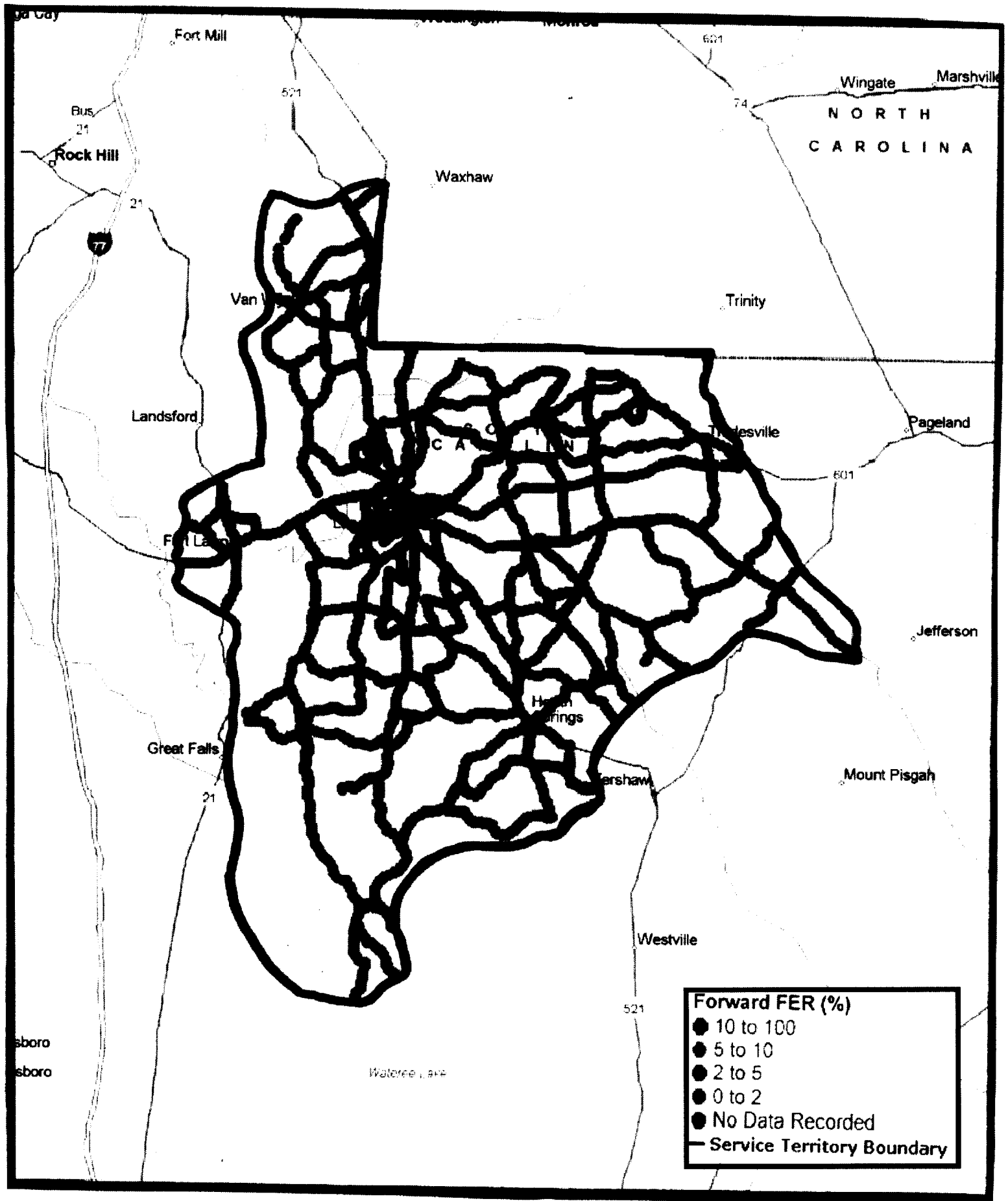
Fort Mill- Alltel CDMA Forward FER (%)



Fort Mill- Verizon CDMA Forward FER (%)



Lancaster- Attel CDMA Forward FER (%)



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Lancaster- Verizon CDMA Forward FER(%)

